

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 22, 2004, claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are now active in this application, of which claims 1, 8 and 16 are independent.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments. Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,084,650 issued to Sekiguchi (“Sekiguchi”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites “a pixel region divided into a plurality of domains, each domain having a liquid crystal inclination direction different from each other; ... *a polymer region formed between the domains neighboring each other*”.

In this regard, Sekiguchi shows, in Fig. 2, a color filter 11 is formed over an opening 15a of the display electrode 15. Since the color filter 11 blocks UV light, a polymer region would not be formed over the opening 15a. Thus, it is submitted that Sekiguchi fails to disclose or suggest “*a polymer region formed between the domains neighboring each other*”.

Similarly, amended independent claim 8 recites “forming a pixel region, the pixel region divided into a plurality of domains, each domain has a liquid crystal inclination direction

different from each other; and *forming a polymer region between the domain neighboring each other*". As previously mentioned, Sekiguchi does not disclose or suggest this claimed feature.

Also, amended independent claim 16 recites "a pixel region divided into a plurality of domains, each domain having a liquid crystal inclination direction different from each other; and *a polymer region formed between the domains neighboring each other*". As mentioned above, Sekiguchi fails to disclose or suggest this claimed feature.

Thus, it is submitted that independent claims 1, 8 and 16 are patentable over Sekiguchi. Claims 2-6, 9-14 and 17-19 that are dependent from claims 1, 8 and 16 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16-19 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 7, 15 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of U. S. Patent Publication No. US2001/007487 by Yoon, et al. ("Yoon"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7, 15 and 20 are dependent from independent claims 1, 8 and 16, respectively. As previously mentioned, claims 1, 8 and 16 have been amended and are now believed to be patentable over Sekiguchi. For example, Sekiguchi fails to disclose or suggest forming a polymer region between the domains neighboring each other. Yoon is directed to forming depression patterns on the common electrode but does not disclose or suggest forming a polymer region between the domains neighboring each other.

Since none of the cited references disclose or suggest forming a polymer region between the domains neighboring each other, it would not have been obvious to combine Sekiguchi and

Yoon to arrive at the invention described in claims 1, 8 and 16. Thus, claims 7, 15 and 20 would be also patentable at least for the same reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 7, 15 and 20 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

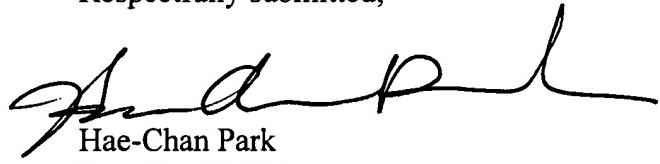
In addition to the amendment mentioned above, claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 16 have been amended for the purposes of informality correction and better wording.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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